

PLO, World Bank clear way for projects

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organization and the World Bank have reached several agreements to start financing development projects in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a senior PLO official said. The agreements are related in the budget of a Palestinian economic council which is to manage international aid for the reconstruction of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's "foreign minister" and vice-president of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, said he signed the deals with World Bank official Ram Chopra at the end of a two-day meeting in Tunis. The World Bank acts as secretariat for the international donors conference which pledged a total of \$2.4 billion over the next five years, including \$600 million for 1994 for projects in the occupied territories. The pledge was made last October in Washington by 47 donor states but so far no money has been committed and the World Bank is reported to have been seeking clarification about the status of the council within the PLO. Mr. Kaddoumi said the PLO was satisfied with the results of its talks with the World Bank delegation.

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Rabin ready to trade settlements for peace

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said before a renewed Middle East peace shuttle by Washington that he would dismantle Jewish settlements on all occupied Arab territory in return for peace.

He also said he hoped to sign the stalled accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho by mid-May.

Mr. Rabin, who angered settlers on the Golan Heights on Thursday by saying he would uproot them for peace, said his remarks also applied to settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Rabin said he was merely restating long-standing policy but the timing seems certain to please U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who embarks on his fourth peace mission to Israel and its Arab neighbours on Sunday.

Mr. Christopher, while trying to dampen expectations of a breakthrough, hopes to revive talks with Syria stalled since the Hebron mosque massacre. He also wants to see the delayed Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho carried out.

"If you read interviews with me that were conducted in the past, you will see that I said that for security I would not

evacuate settlements for peace, yes," Mr. Rabin told Israeli Radio in remarks broadcast on Friday.

"I replied (on Thursday) to a question in general on the issue of evacuating settlements which a Golan Heights settler happened to ask. My reply reflected by general position with regard to Gaza, Judea and Samaria and the Golan Heights," Mr. Rabin said. Judea and Samaria are the Israeli-given names for the West Bank.

Mr. Rabin's comments further incensed the more than 100,000 settlers who fear they will be part of the price of peace.

"He is prepared to evacuate everywhere," settler spokesman Michael Wasserstein said. "(Rabin's) statement is new for those who didn't know him before, this time he didn't lie," he added.

Ever since the massacre of more than 30 Arabs by a settler in Hebron in February and subsequent Arab guerrilla reprisals inside pre-1967 Israel, Mr. Rabin has been signalling that settlers whom he does not regard as serving Israeli interests may have to go.

"Whatever areas that we will decide for peace to vacate, I believe I will not ask the Israeli settlers to stay there," Mr. Rabin told reporters in Tel Aviv on Friday.

In a rare moment he referred to Syrian soil on the Golan.



Palestinian women argue with an Israeli soldier as they are prevented from entering an area near Jerusalem (AP photo)

New arrests after Hamas claims killing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli troops arrested

Hamas' activists in Hebron on Friday, after the group claimed responsibility for killing an Israeli soldier the same day.

Palestinian exiles belonging to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) triumphantly returned to the Gaza Strip.

The arrests and returns came as the armed underground groups attached to Hamas and the PLO announced that they had signed a ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip (see separate story).

The families of three senior Hamas members, Azziz Dweik, Hakim Afifi and Hissam Jabr told Palestinian reporters that troops arrested all three on Friday morning.

There were other unconfirmed reports of arrests.

A security sweep of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on Tuesday put 362 activists in fundamentalist Islamic groups behind bars.

All three men arrested Friday were among 400 Palestinians Israel expelled to Lebanon for one year in Dec. 1992 in response to a wave of attacks.

An anonymous caller in Israel Radio's Arabic service on Friday claimed that Hamas activists stabbed an Israeli soldier to death.

The body of Shachar Simoni was found Thursday in a West Bank village on the outskirts of Jerusalem. He had eight knife wounds in the back.

Previous attacks by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both opposed to the Israel-PLO autonomy accord, have left 13 Israelis dead and about 80 wounded this month.

A masked member of Hamas also announced the claim through a loudspeaker after Friday prayers outside a mosque in Gaza City.

"Hamas' Izzedin Al Kassam group is responsible for the capture and killing of the soldier," he shouted. Al Kassam is the armed wing of Hamas.

Al Kassam also seized his M-16 gun, his identity card and other documents, then dumped his body."

The killing was a reprisal for Israel's arrest of Hamas members, the masked man said.

Nearly 300 Palestinians protested in the city on Friday against Israel's detention of nearly 500 activists in a bid to break up the Hamas network.

Hamas also claimed responsibility for an attack earlier this week in which two Jewish settlers were shot and wounded on the Gaza Strip.

It said the attack was the first, swift response against continued Israeli arrests of its members."

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"Hamas' Izzedin Al Kassam group is responsible for the capture and killing

Iraqi diplomats return home after standoff in Lebanon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Three Iraqi diplomats have returned home from Beirut after Lebanon broke diplomatic links with their country over an assassination of an Iraqi dissident in the Lebanon capital.

The three, including Charge d'Affaires Awad Fakhri, flew to Amman aboard a Royal Jordanian (RJ) flight Thursday morning. Two of their colleagues were arrested by Lebanese police as they got out of their diplomatic-plated cars at Beirut airport to board the flight.

The arrest of the two raised to four the number of Iraqi diplomats held in Beirut over the April 12 killing of Sheikh Taleh Ali Al Suheil, who was reported to have been a key figure in a foiled plot against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last year.

Mr. Fakhri had demanded that the Lebanon government, which broke diplomatic ties with Iraq after Baghdad refused to lift the diplomatic immunity for the two attacks, Mohammad Kadhem and Khaled Khalaf release the two diplomats. He also refused to hand over another attacker, Ali Darwish, and guard Hadi Hassan, the suspected assassin, who were holed up in the Iraqi embassy in Beirut since the day of assassination.

A Lebanese-Armenian employee of the embassy, George Teredjian, who allegedly drove the assassination team to Suheil's apartment in Beirut, has also been detained and charged with complicity.

It was not immediately clear how the embassy stand-off ended, given the tough state-

ments that Mr. Fakhri had been issuing demanding the release of Mr. Kadhem and Mr. Khalaf.

But analysts speculated that the Iraqis realised that they could be in for a long siege by Lebanese police or be exposed to a possible storming of the embassy after Friday, the date set by the Beirut government for them to leave the country and thus the effective end to diplomatic immunity for the event, the reports said.

The three who arrived from Beirut were directly driven from Amman airport on the 1,000-kilometre trip to Baghdad, the Associated Press quoted Iraqi embassy spokesman Adel Ibrahim as saying.

There was no immediate report from Baghdad of the diplomats' arrival there.

The Iraqi government has denied Lebanese Prosecutor-General Munir Oweidat that its intelligence apparatus had ordered the killing of Suheil, who held Jordanian and USA passports and a known opponent of the Baathist regime in Baghdad.

According to reports in the Lebanese press quoting "confessions" by the two attackers arrested immediately after the killing, the order for the assassination had come from Baghdad over the telex. The operation was allegedly master-minded by Mr. Darwish.

Charge d'Affaires Fakhri was called in by prosecutors to hear the confessions of the two, the reports said.

An Iraqi Foreign Minister spokesman has accused Lebanon of violating the 1961 international convention and regulates diplomatic immunity.

"It has detained diplomats who possess 'diplomatic immunity' ... charging them with baseless accusation," the spokesman said in a statement issue on Wednesday.



WELCOME HOME: Palestinian exile Mahmoud Abu Shamab is welcomed home by friends upon his arrival on the Israeli-controlled side of the Rafah border. Mr. Abu Shamab was among five Palestinians who fled abroad to escape the Israeli army to return to the occupied Gaza Strip on Friday from Egypt. They were all members of the Fatah Hawks, the armed wing of Fatah and Hamas. They returned via the Rafah border

crossing point, after first flying to Egypt from Algeria where they had sought refuge. Ten others returned to the Gaza Strip on Thursday. Eight of them had fled to Algeria and the other two to Libya. The latest group of refugees raised to 70 the number of banned or wanted Palestinians to return to the Gaza Strip and West Bank since the beginning of April (AFP photo)

Geagea: Will they accuse me of crucifying Jesus?

By Rima Salameh
The Associated Press

SEIRUT — Right-wing Christian leader Samir Geagea, was quoted Friday as saying upon his arrest that Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's Syrian-backed government will next accuse him of crucifying Jesus Christ.

Dr. Geagea was grabbed by government troops from his mountaintop headquarters in Ghidras in Lebanon's Christian heartland late Thursday night and was taken to the Defence Ministry compound in suburban Yarze east of Beirut.

An official statement said he was wanted for questioning about his group's implication in the massacre of rival Christian leader Dany Chamoun and his family three years ago, and in a church bombing in February.

"I am innocent on both counts," Dr. Geagea told a few local newspaper reporters who were present when troops picked him up at Ghidras, 35 kilometres northeast of Beirut. "What next? Will they accuse me of crucifying Jesus?"

Dr. Geagea, 42, headed the Lebanese Forces, which fielded the largest Christian militia during the 1975-90 civil war. The group was disbanded after the end of the conflict but continued to operate, like many of its Muslim rivals, as a political party.

But Mr. Hariri's government last month outlawed the Lebanese Forces after eight of its members were accused in the Feb. 27 bombing of the Maronite Catholic Notre

Dame de la Délivrance Church in the port city of Jounieh north of Beirut.

Five Lebanese Forces members are in custody in connection with the church blast, which killed 10 worshippers and wounded 60. Three are at large in Australia and Canada.

Dr. Geagea's arrest was not expected to raise widespread protests in the Christian camp.

"There will be no disturbances. I have ordered all my partisans to refrain from any adverse acts and I am certain they will obey," Dr. Geagea told reporters.

His remarks were published by several Beirut dailies Friday, including the independent Al Nahar, the conservative Al Diyar and the opposition newspaper Nidaa Al Watan.

The leftist Al Safir quoted him as saying the government "wants to muzzle every opposition voice, but I am not going to quit politics and the Lebanese Forces will not vanish."

They said that after Dr. Geagea's peaceful arrest an army officer with a hullhorn ordered all Lebanese Forces partisans at the two-storey headquarters to emerge unarmed, saying "the place is ringed by tanks."

An estimated 150 men came out. They were frisked and then taken to the Defence Ministry by army trucks while troops entered and searched the building, the newspapers said.

Dr. Geagea's wife, Estrida, pleaded with officers not to humiliate the men. One officer

told her Dr. Geagea's followers "will be set free after we take their names and their signatures," the newspapers added.

Two dozen Lebanese Forces members have been charged with the Oct. 1991 massacre of Chamoun, 56, his half-German wife Ingrid Abdul Noor, and their sons Tarek, 7, and Julian, 5. The only survivors were a maid who managed to hide their infant daughter, Tamara. Half of the suspects have been arrested.

No charges have yet been filed against Dr. Geagea, who was backed by Israel during the Lebanese civil war.

The massacre, only days after the last major battle of civil war, was one of the ugliest crimes of the conflict.

The Lebanese Forces had been at odds with Chamoun because of his support for rebel General Michel Aoun in his 10-month battle for dominance in the Christian heartland.

Hundreds of people were killed before Gen. Aoun was defeated in a Syrian-led onslaught against his hilltop Baabda headquarters east of Beirut on Oct. 13, 1990.

The Syrians are the main power brokers in Lebanon, with 40,000 troops deployed in the country and backing the government's effort to enforce law and order.

Although Gen. Aoun's defeat signalled the end of the civil war, there have been several jolts to government efforts to reestablish law and order.

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Students in U.S. urge end to siege

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian students in the U.S. capital have called on the U.S. government to lift the de facto blockade on the port of Aqaba.

"We are greatly concerned that (this issue) be speedily resolved and we emphatically urge each of you to do everything within your power to pursue an end to the Aqaba siege," said a petition addressed to the U.S. government sent and signed "on behalf of all Jordanian students who reside in the U.S."

The petition, addressed to President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and members of the U.S. Congress, said that the

embargo imposed on Iraq in August 1990 was to ensure Baghdad's compliance with the United Nations' resolutions passed in the wake of Gulf crisis. But, the petition said, the move was "severely affecting" Jordan.

The petition said Jordan was fully cooperative with the U.N. and that "not one embargo violation, bad or found by inspectors who have searched over 1,700 ships since the imposition of sanctions."

Economic losses resulting from the blockade according to the petition, are causing Jordan severe financial difficulties as major shipping lines have stopped serving Aqaba.

Moreover, Jordan's historical role is being undermined by "the siege which is affecting its

position of being a source of security, stability, and development in the region," it added.

Jordan is committed to promoting lasting peace in the Middle East and has always responded enthusiastically to the "window of opportunity for peace," but the embargo on its port is affecting the peace process negatively, the petition said.

Secretary Christopher said Wednesday he was carrying "suggestions" to "ease the burden" on Jordan of the U.S.-led naval blockade. Mr. Christopher is scheduled to start a Mideast tour on Sunday and is expected to meet with His Majesty King Hussein in London Sunday.

Text of accord between Fatah Hawks and Hamas

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — Here is the full text of the agreement reached on the Gaza Strip on Friday between the armed wings of the mainstream Fatah movement and the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas:

"Joint statement from the Fatah Hawks and the Izzedine Al Qassam factions:

"Our people in beloved Palestine, following some organisational problems between Fatah and Hamas, and while our enemy has been campaigning to fuel strife among our people, the representatives of Fatah and Al Qassam held a historic meeting in which they studied all the organisational, political, social, and economic situation

only in the case of the death of a martyr in his own residential area. In case of his death elsewhere, there will be a day of mourning announced. The intifada activists are advised not to throw stones on cars that circulate in cases of extreme necessity.

"We urge all factions to reduce strikes as much as possible, and in case of emergency, the strike will be announced jointly, through brotherly understanding.

"5. Concerning education, we call on our students to attend school and educational faculties on strike days, and all students must not give into attempts to force them away from school.

"6. Following serious study of the subject of agents, Fatah and Hamas decided to stop killing agents starting from April 22 to May 22, on condition that efforts are undertaken to solve the problem.

"7. The factions agreed upon the following with the aim of strengthening Palestinian national unity which will remain a solid rock upon which all enemy plots will die.

"8. An end to conflicts and bloody clashes and a final end of the use of violence in solving these conflicts. We stress the importance of the constructive dialogue among our people to put an end to plots aimed at destroying our people by constant crises.

"9. As of the issuing of this statement, there is a ban on the intervention by fugitives or armed men on both sides to solve organisational or family problems.

"The Islamic and national reconciliation committees will perform their duties to solve any conflict, and in case of crisis, the political leaders will intervene to end the problems. Fatah and Hamas will decide the modalities for the implementation of this decision.

"4. Following a lengthy study of our people's economic situation, it has been decided to strike for one day

Mashhad prayer leader wounded

TEHRAN (AFP) — A gunman on Friday shot and wounded the Muslim cleric leading prayers in northeastern Iran's holy city of Mashhad, Iranian state television reported.

It was the first such attack on a prayer leader during a religious service in Iran.

The television said Hojatoleslam Abai-Khorassani was wounded by a man firing a pistol at Imam Reza Mausoleum, one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines, and taken to a hospital where his condition was reported to be stable.

Security forces overpowered the gunman and arrested him.

The motive for the attack was not known.

Hojatoleslam Abai-Khorassani, 50, is one of the most influential religious leaders in the Mashhad region.

The attack coincided with the anniversary of the birth of Imam Reza, the eighth Imam of the Shiite faith.

The Mausoleum was packed with worshippers for Friday prayers.

Mashhad, Iran's second city and home to a large number of Afghan refugees, has been a focus of tension for two years.

Arab boycott of Israel impedes U.S. trade, says Commerce Department

WASHINGTON (USA) — The Arab economic boycott of Israel "continues to impede U.S. trade and investment," says John Despres, assistant secretary for export enforcement at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Mr. Despres was commenting on just released Commerce Department statistics on boycott-related requests from Arab countries for the first quarter of 1994, which indicate there has been slow progress in ending the boycott.

In a related development, the Commerce Department imposed civil penalties on five companies for alleged violations of the antiboycott provisions of the export administration regulations.

U.S. laws and regulations prohibit U.S. citizens from furnishing or agreeing to furnish information about any person's business relationship with or in a boycotted country — such as Israel. Under these laws, U.S. citizens are required to report promptly any such request.

A Commerce Department quarterly report indicates that Arab countries observing the economic boycott of Israel "continue to ask American firms to take boycott-related actions, many of which are prohibited by U.S. laws and regulations," Mr. Despres said in a statement released April 19.

The United States, Mr. Despres said, "will keep doing all it can to persuade the Arab League countries to discontinue their boycott." However, he added, "so far that progress has been disappointingly low."

The Commerce Department will continue its "aggressive enforcement of U.S. anti-boycott law," Mr. Despres

said. As part of this effort, the Commerce Department announced that it has imposed civil penalties on five companies for alleged violations of the antiboycott legislation.

The companies include: The Arab Bank — New York, BoaBeco, in Peabody, Massachusetts; Honeywell Industrial Automated Control Division, in York, Pennsylvania; Honeywell Private Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell, Inc., located in Singapore; and Arab American Bank, based in New York.

"While neither admitting nor denying the alleged violations, all four companies agreed to pay the civil penalties while conducting an internal audit and voluntarily disclosed them,"

The New York branch of Arab Bank agreed to pay \$13,200 in civil penalties to settle the allegations that between May 1988 and February 1992 the branch "violated the prohibition against furnishing business relationship information and the requirement that boycott-related requests be reported" to the Department of Commerce.

BoaBeco, a manufacturer and exporter of educational equipment, agreed to pay \$10,000 for seven alleged violations of the antiboycott legislation, specifically the failure to report its receipt of boycott-related requests.

Honeywell Industrial Automated Control Division and Honeywell Private Ltd., in Singapore agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$2,000 for two alleged antiboycott violations.

In connection with a 1993 sale of goods to Saudi Arabia, Honeywell Industrial allegedly agreed to furnish prohibited information about its business relationship with Israel, and Honeywell Private Ltd. allegedly furnished prohibited information.

The Commerce Department noted that AAB — between April 1989 and March 1992 — violated the antiboycott legislation "by furnishing to Syria, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates ten items of information about other companies' business relationships with Israel and with persons known or believed to be blacklisted by most members of the Arab League."

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:28 Vienna (OA)
05:30 Sanja (IY)
15:45 Rome (AZ)
19:45 Dubai (EM)
20:38 Paris, Damascus (KL)
00:25 Amsterdam (KL)
00:25 Cairo (MS)

02:25 Amsterdam (KL)
01:15 Cairo (MS)

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Apple	550/650
Banana	500/600
Banana (Mukhamar)	500/600
Cabbage	170/200
Carrot	250/300
Cauliflower	150/200
Cucumbers (large)	150/200
Cucumbers (small)	300/400
Eggplant	200/300
Garlic	500/600
Green beans	350/450
Lemon	140/200
Marrow (large)	150/200
Marrow (small)	300/400
Mushrooms	400/500
Orange	400/500</td

'Statement lauds King's efforts to safeguard the Holy City as a symbol of peace'

House 'fully supports' King's stand on peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament has voted absolute support for His Majesty King Hussein's firm stand in the face of Israel's threats addressed to the King.

The House, in a statement issued here Thursday, also expressed deep appreciation of the King's relentless endeavours to safeguard the holy places and to restore the Dome of Rock and the Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The statement ran as follows:

"The Lower House of Parliament studied political developments in the region and the Israeli threats to Jordan as well as the continued American blockade on the port of Aqaba.

"The House considers King Hussein's address marking the end of restoration work at the Dome of the Rock and Aqsa Mosque as containing a reaffirmation of the Jordanian national stands vis-a-vis the Palestine question and the peace process as well as pan-

Arab causes in general.

"The House voices its full backing to the Jordanian stand with regard to the concept of a just peace in the region, which is based on the restoration of Arab sovereignty over the Holy City.

"In line with the requirements of the international legitimacy and human rights principles, the House reiterates its rejection of and strongest outrage over Israeli and Western threats to Jordan, accused of backing terrorism, and it places the blame on the Israeli government for obstructing peace and for procrastination in implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions and for trying to avoid compliance with the world community's rules with backing from the United States benefiting from the weak Arab stand and lack of coordination among Arab countries.

"The House expresses full support for the Arab Palestinian people in their struggle and steadfastness and defence of their legitimate rights and

lands and reconfirms full backing for the Palestinians' struggle which is guaranteed by all international laws and the Geneva conventions, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"The House also highly values King Hussein's support for the restoration of the Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock and lands the King's efforts to safeguard the Holy City as a symbol of peace.

"The House expresses its full condemnation of the U.S. aggression on the Arab Nation and its continued blockade against the port of Aqaba which aims at pressuring Jordan to abandon its pan-Arab and national stand and conclude a separate peace treaty with Israel to serve Israeli and American objectives of controlling the Middle East region and its natural wealth.

"The House also expresses condemnation of continued American sanctions on Iraq and deprivation of the Iraqi people of their requirements of food and medicine."

Investors complain of slow pace in link-up project with Mayo Clinic

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Investors in the link-up project between the Amman Diagnostic Centre and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester are complaining about the slow pace of the project's development. "So far a project needs business-minded people to carry it out, and not just doctors," an investor in the venture told the Jordan Times Friday.

An agreement was signed on Feb. 18 by Jihad Bargouti, chairman of the Amman Diagnostic Centre, and Mayo Clinic Director Rich Colvin. The link-up arrangement aims at enabling patients in Jordan to have access to the expertise of the Mayo Clinic in the U.S., in diagnosis and treatment without having to travel to the reputed medical facility in Rochester, Minnesota.

The Amman Diagnostic Centre has raised a capital of JD 12 million to fund the

project. Thirty two investors, mainly doctors and business people are involved in the funding of the arrangement.

Several cocontributors, however, are dissatisfied with the venture's progress, which they described as lacking consistency. Ibrahim Abol Ragheb, a major investor in the project, said that the founding committee of the project is marginalising the role of investors in the development stages of the venture. Mr. Abol Ragheb added that the committee only summons contributors to sign papers concerning steps to implement the agreement without discussing them with investors before hand.

Mr. Abol Ragheb added that the doctors' technique in handling projects is different from that of businesspeople, but that both medical and business aspects of the agreement should overlap to speed up the project.

Meanwhile, an exchange of expertise between the Mayo Clinic and Amman's Diagnostic Centre is currently

in progress, and local specialists are undergoing training in cooperation with the Rochester clinic.

The agreement between the Mayo Clinic and the centre provides for an annual fee to be paid to the U.S. facility for the services in addition to the other charges on a case-by-case basis, including regular visits by its experts to Amman.

The Mayo Clinic is considered as one of the best medical facilities, with a high international reputation. Many heads of state and statesmen have had treatment there.

His Majesty King Hussein has visited the facility twice since he underwent successful cancer surgery in the Rochester clinic in August 1992.

Investors in the sophisticated programme are eager to witness progress in the venture. They say that for the projects to be in effect soon, more effort and cooperation between parties concerned in the programme are needed.

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GRACE IN MOVEMENT: Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Mother Zein Al Sharaf, Al Jeel Al Jaded Club's junior dance troupe will hold its annual Circassian dance festival at the Baccalaureate School auditorium on April 27, 28 and 29 at 8:30 p.m. The troupe was established in 1966 as a separate group from the main dance troupe and is made up of 70 boys and girls aged five to 14. The troupe's activities aim at popularising and developing the Circassian dance as an art form and at impressing traditional values on the minds of the young while, at the same time, conveying "a message of hope that the legacy of the past can be propagated to the generations to come."

Kingdom to host museum conference

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Preparations are under way by the Department of Antiquities, in cooperation with the International Council of Museums (ICOM), to open a four-day conference entitled "Encounters of museums professionals of Arab countries' museums, civilisation and development," to be held Tuesday in Amman.

Department of Antiquities Director General Sawsan Al Tell told the Jordan Times that the meeting, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, would be dedicated to discussing the role of museums in promoting culture.

The meeting, which is to take place at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), will also deal with museums management, legislations related to museum and other pertinent topics, said Dr. Tell.

The meeting, organised in implementation of directives by the Crown Prince, is designed to underline the importance of artefacts, antiquities and museums in shedding light on the legacy and various cultures left by the mankind, said Dr. Tell.

The organisers said more than 80 museum professionals from 20 Arab and Arabic-speaking countries will attend the meeting. The ICOM said in a statement that the objective of this encounter is to invite professionals of the same region to share their experiences and to engage in a debate on the future of the museums and also to develop new policies for exchange and cooperation on regional and international levels.

According to the statement, the conference will break up into workshops which, it said, would discuss the role of museums and museum staff, management of collections and research, ethics and legislation.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan Thursday met with Mrs. Elizabeth Desportes, ICOM secretary-general, and the accompanying delegation, thanking them for choosing Jordan as a venue for this important conference.

Mrs. Desportes outlined the

French medical industry gets high exposure in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A wide spectrum of French technology in medicine and hospital equipment goes on show today, Saturday, in Amman in the latest French bid to establish links with the Jordanian market.

Eighteen companies, most of them from south of France, are putting their wares on display at the four-day "French Medical Technology Preseotation." The event is part of a seminar during which experts will also familiarise Jordanian doctors and pharmaceutical business men with what France has to offer in advanced equipment and techniques in the area of medicine and health, according to Michel Duger, head of the Amman office of the French Department for External Economic Relations.

The event is organised by a private sector company, S.A.M. International Trade, based in Montpellier, which held two exhibitions in Jordan last year.

Nadira Manchet, director of the company, said she was encouraged to arrange this week's event by two reasons: there is a large scope for cooperation between Jordanian and French firms in terms of marketing within the Kingdom, and Jordanian companies can also offer opportunities for French businesses in the occupied territories.

"We are looking at Jordan not only as a market on its own but also as a bridge to the Arab World, the West Bank and Gaza in particular," Ms. Manchet told a press conference on Thursday.

Both Ms. Manchet and Mr. Duger noted that many Jordanian companies are branching out to the occupied territories encouraged by the developments in the Arab

Israeli peace process.

"It is much easier for us to get into the West Bank through Jordan," said Ms. Manchet, adding that the participants in the exhibition were looking for agency arrangements in Jordan and also for possible technology transfer to Jordanian indus-

"France has made major advances in the field of medicine and medical equipment to a level equal to that of the United States and others," he said. "What we need is exposure and promotion, and that is what this week's exhibition and seminar intend to achieve."

Total French exports to Jordan were worth around JD 100 million during 1993. About eight to nine per cent of the exports were of raw material and ingredients for the pharmaceutical industry, medical equipment and medicines, Mr. Duger said. Jordan's exports to France during the year were about 10 per cent of the total French exports to the Kingdom, he said.

"France-Jordanian cooperation in the medical sector goes back many years," he said, noting that the King Hussein Medical Centre, Jordan's most prestigious medical facility, was built by a French firm.

Mr. Duger said he expected French exports to go up to JD 150 million during 1994.

The major contracts signed by French companies with Jordanian firms towards the end of 1993 and beginning of 1994 include a \$120 million turnkey project for the Indo-Jordanian Chemical Company, a \$40 million project involving gas turbines to the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), a \$20 million project with the Telecommunications Corporation, and a \$10 million export order for 100 Renault trucks to the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company, Mr. Duger said.

The diplomat noted that a JBA team of up to 80 people was scheduled to pay a visit to France early next month and one of the key events of the visit was a May 5 meeting with French manufacturers and exporters under the auspices of the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

BALLET

★ Ballet performance (Swan Lake, Bolero, Romeo and Juliet) at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

DIALOGUE

★ Dialogue with Dr. Hanan Ashrawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of women's home-made products (including ceramics, sweets and handicrafts) at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Bahijah Al Hikim at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).

★ "Spring Exhibition" of Jordanian industrial products at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.) (Tel. 847113).

★ American Promotion Week '94 at the Amman International Motor Show, Airport Highway (12:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.) (Tel. 714211).

★ Exhibition by artist Mustafa Al Hallaj at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 687598).

★ Exhibition by artists Alia Ammoura, Dorothy Mango, Hind Naser, Janine Saaf, Lucy Marto, Tete Wegelin at Abd'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).

★ Engraving exhibition by artist Jean-Pierre Pincemin at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669348).

★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).

★ "Permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funn of the Abdin Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

Workshop to tackle women's participation in public life

AMMAN (J.T.) — A regional workshop entitled "Promoting women's participation in public life" is to open at the Dead Sea Saturday with the participation of at least 20 leaders of Arab women's non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The goal of the meeting, organised by America Mideast Educational and Training Services (Amideast) office in Amman, is the promotion of women's participation in public life in general and in Jordan in particular.

An Amideast statement said that the April 23-25 meeting will be attended by leaders from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Yemen and guests from government offices to Jordan, as well as diplomatic media and NGOs.

Established in 1951, Amideast has its headquarters in Washington D.C. Amideast has a network of offices located in Jordan, as well as Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, the West Bank, Gaza and Yemen.

According to the statement, the conference will break up into workshops which, it said, would discuss the role of museums and museum staff, management of collections and research, ethics and legislation.

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Mrs. Desportes outlined the

MOUING

Ziyad R. Annab

mourns the passing away of his wife

Verna Jean Scott

The mother of Tariq Annab, Nadia Fauri and Najwa Annab

Condolences will be received at family home: morning for women, afternoon for men

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PHOTOGRAPHIES

Features

Solution to siege unlikely this week

(Continued from page 1)

on the Kingdom despite its adherence to the sanctions against Iraq.

Officials point to the non-existence of inspection operations against neighbouring countries which have trade links with Iraq as proof that the Aqaba blockade is intended to pressure Jordan.

"The fact that we are singled out and nobody is interested in finding out what trade with Iraq goes out from Turkey, Syria and Iran is an indefensible proof that the purpose is to pressure Jordan," Jordanian said.

Jordanian officials said the U.S. has also been exercising pressure on Jordan by demanding that the Kingdom take action against companies which it alleges are acting as a front for Iraq.

The officials said the U.S. had been using "non-paper diplomacy" with Jordan by providing it with lists of companies

that it claims are working for Iraq and demanding action against them.

But after investigating these companies, officials said, the government found nothing illegal about their operations and informed the United States that the Kingdom cannot take any action against them because they are violating neither Jordanian law nor the sanctions regime against Iraq.

One official said the U.S. has linked a solution to the Aqaba siege to a crack down on these companies whose number could not be determined.

"The U.S. is applying double pressure on Jordan. It is applying gumbot diplomacy and non-paper diplomacy," said prominent Parliament Member Abdul Karim Al Khatib.

But the U.S. embassy in Amman denied that there is any link between the two situations.

Arafat, Peres end Bucharest talks

(Continued from page 1)

administering civilian services, Mr. Peres said.

"We are all interested in shortening as much as possible the period of overlap — turning the twilight situation into a clear one," he said.

At a news conference, during an international business forum attended by both men on Thursday, Mr. Arafat said he was certain Israeli soldiers would quit Gaza and Jericho within days of the signing of a final agreement.

Israeli troops were sche-

duled to begin their pullout from Gaza and Jericho on December and end the withdrawal by April 13.

"For how long can we say... tomorrow, or after tomorrow or next month — or no sacred dates," Mr. Arafat complained at the news conference referring to the delays.

An Israeli minister said Israel and the PLO could sign an agreement in the first week of May.

"Signing an agreement in the first week of May seems a

Amnesty demands end to Israeli torture

(Continued from page 1)

While the peace process between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) develops, the human rights situation in Israel and the occupied territories should remain under close scrutiny," said Amnesty International.

NATO warns Bosnian Serbs

(Continued from page 1)

Friday the convoy was still therefore trapped at the entrance to the town of Rogatica, 35 kilometres east of Sarajevo, he said.

Mr. Permod said it had been ordered back to Sarajevo by General Guillaume de Lapresle, UNPROFOR commander for ex-Yugoslavia, because "due to the situation in Gorazde, the detachment did not have the means to fulfil its mission."

The convoy left Sarajevo Thursday, after being delayed for several days. It was blocked at Rogatica Thursday, after noon by Bosnian Serb women protesting about the treatment of their husbands at the hands of Muslims in Gorazde.

Meanwhile, Serb forces continued their onslaught on Gorazde, a day after what a U.N. spokesman described as "the bloodiest day" in the campaign to date.

Kris Janowski, an official of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), said free people had been killed and three wounded when Serb shells slammed into a building used by U.N. military obser-

Geagea detained

(Continued from page 1)

the Lebanese Forces "as an institution" was linked to the church bombing or the Chammoun assassination.

Until his arrest, he had been holed up at his headquarters in Ghidra north of Beirut since the Lebanese Forces was banned in mid-March.

Troops backed by tanks and armoured vehicles took up positions near the headquar-

ters before officers acting on orders from judges investigating the two violent incidents went in and asked Dr. Geagea to accompany them.

He is being questioned by investigative judges Joseph Freiha and Muin Hinein, who will decide whether he will face charges.

"These accusations aim to totally hit the Lebanese Forces and silence the opposition," said Dr. Geagea.

100 injured in soccer violence

(Continued from page 10)

Major-General Abdul Rahman Al Adwan called for speedy measures to determine the causes and the results of the incidents.

Some sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, blamed the incidents on the leniency of referee Suleiman Abu Hajja, "who was not firm in stopping violent tackles by players."

The first incident in the match, which was attended by more than 20,000 people, including Her Royal Highness Princess Haya and the head of the Omani Olympic Committee who is currently visiting Jordan, was between two players from Al Wihdat after Syria's Tadros scored Al Faisali's first goal in the fifth minute. Al Wihdat goalkeeper Nasser Al Ghadour and his defender Yousef Al Ammouri started

blaming each other for the goal and ended up physically attacking each other. The referee did not interfere.

Later in the evening, Al Wihdat fans attacked the club premises in the Al Wihdat refugee camp, damaging all its contents and facilities before they were dispersed by police.

The club's goalie Ghadour was also attacked by fans and taken to hospital as he was going to home in the camp.

The match was of no importance to the teams' standings since Al Faisali secured the title three weeks ago and was seeking only to increase its standing from 54 points. Al Wihdat had 41 points.

The Jordan Soccer Federation has to take a decision on a rematch. The JSF decided two weeks ago to fine Al Wihdat JD 2,000 and Al Faisali JD 1,000 for unsportsmanlike behaviour on the part of fans and administrators.

The (U.S.) embassy denies the link between the alleged list of Iraqi companies and the discussions between Jordan and the United States to alleviate the economic burden on Jordan from the inspection operations in Aqaba, said an embassy official.

Sources said that some U.S. agencies were not satisfied with the mechanism through which Jordan investigated the operations of the alleged front companies for Iraq. They added that some U.S. departments involved in the negotiations over the inspection operations want to see Jordan take action against these companies as a proof of the "reliability" in enforcing the sanctions against Iraq.

But Jordanian officials rejected these explanations, insisting that like the siege on Aqaba, demands for action against these companies are part of the pressure the U.S. is being applying on Jordan to achieve political goals.

The U.S. is applying double pressure on Jordan. It is applying gumbot diplomacy and non-paper diplomacy," said prominent Parliament Member Abdul Karim Al Khatib.

But the U.S. embassy in Amman denied that there is any link between the two situations.

By William Maclean
Reuter

KUWAIT — Islamist politicians with wide representation in parliament have given a frosty reception to a new government seen as Kuwait's most liberal in years.

The deputies say they fear the dropping of two Islamist ministers to an April 13 reshuffle could be an attempt to reverse a post-Gulf war expansion of Muslim fundamentalist influence in the oil state of 1.5 million.

The deputies, who form the largest single block in the National Assembly, are also unhappy about what they see as cuts on media and charity work, aimed at making Kuwait society more Islamic.

"I think there are attempts under way by the government to incite the Islamic movement in the country. And that's why they don't want those (ministers) with them who could embarrass them," deputy Mubarak Al Duwailah was quoted as

Kuwait cabinet under fire for underrepresentation of bedouins, Islamists

saying by the English-language *Arab Times*.

The Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), Kuwait's version of the Muslim Brotherhood, said it would cooperate with the cabinet but the reshuffle was "well below expectations."

The reshuffle failed to respond to a fair political and social representation and moreover ignored large and important sections of the Kuwaiti people," a statement said.

The Islamists, who have worked hard to build on their role in Kuwait's civilian resistance in Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, say cabinets should be finely balanced to include all groups.

They say the cabinet lacks not only Islamist clout but also sufficient representation for the large bedouin community.

Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah dropped ICM member Jemaan Al Azmi as minister of Islamic affairs and Abdallah Al Hajeeri, a close associate of

Mr. Duwailah said the dropping of the two ministers was aimed at appeasing an Arab government that had been upset by recent Kuwaiti Islamist activities. According to a report in the *Arab Times*, the report did not identify the government.

Liberals hailed the cabinet as the right team to rebuild the affluent society along more progressive and self-reliant lines.

But Islamists, who can count on the support of at least 15 of the 50 elected deputies, tend to be suspicious of plans to privatise the economy and cut welfare state benefits.

Some of them have made outspoken allegations, denied by the government, of corruption in defence procurement. But it is their social agenda that has been the main focus of unease.

Mr. Duwailah complained about the screening in Kuwait of "the Terrorist," an Egyptian film about Muslim militancy in that country, and

an increase earlier this year in state monitoring of Kuwait's Islamic charities, a move seen by some Islamists as tantamount to an accusation of links between Kuwaiti charities and armed militant groups in Egypt and other Muslim countries.

Islamist charities deny links to armed militant groups.

Islamist deputy Ahmad Baqer, the secretary of parliament, has called for an explanation of the cabinet changes and said the reshuffle had been conducted in an air of secrecy.

The government has not responded so far to the criticism.

Sheikh Saad, in a televised speech to the new cabinet, said without elaboration his new ministerial team should not be diverted by "rumours you may hear aiming at distorting and cultivating an atmosphere of instability or confusion."

"There are certain elements that are never satisfied with anything."

World War 1

This rivalry culminated in the design for the Palace of the Soviets, a design by architect Boris Iofan for a 415 metre high tower topped by a massive 80 metre statue of Lenin, was accepted in 1933.

The palace, embodying the great leader with the simple drawing.

Similarly, the Communists, with the active participation of Stalin, drew up detailed plans for the urban renewal of Moscow.

Some of these, including the ornate metro stations and skyscrapers such as Moscow State University, were realized.

The skyscrapers were intended to match those in New York, and designs from the late 1940s show astonishing similarities to skyscrapers built in New York before

the designs in the Soviet

VIENNA — Dictators are notorious for dabbling in architecture as they dream of ideal cities for their new societies.

Two exhibitions, which have just opened in Vienna, highlight the use of classical models and traditional design in the plans of totalitarian leaders including Josef Stalin and Adolf Hitler.

At the Koenigstheater, "Art and Dictatorship" looks not only at architecture but also art in Stalin's Soviet Union, Hitler's Germany, Benito Mussolini's Italy, and 1930s and 1940s Austria.

Vienna's Museum of Applied Arts (MAK) is showing "the tyranny of beauty," on architecture of the Stalin era.

Hitler and Stalin, although ideological foes, had strikingly similar tastes in art and architecture.

Their ideal buildings, massive in scale to dwarf and impress their citizens, drew on classical antecedents to create a sense of public dignity and solemnity.

"Soviet people can produce more majestic and memorable examples of architectural creation than this," said Stalin. As he ordered the demolition of a 17th century tower in Moscow.

"The people shall stand before these monumental community achievements in reverence and awe," said Hitler of two giant sculptures, in words which summed up his whole approach to art and architecture.

Whereas the Nazis preferred austere designs, overwhelming in their simplicity, people if they were to get their message across.

Hence the "Socialist realism" decreed as the only possible style by Stalin, which was realistic in both its choice and portrayal of subjects, depicting smiling tractor drivers heroically ploughing the fields of a collective farm, or Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin lecturing eager young Communists.

Art in Nazi Germany was also realistic in style, with "degenerate" modern works ridiculed, destroyed or sold abroad.

But German artists often preferred more escapist or classical themes, although here too the propaganda message was never far away.

For instance a "Judgement of Paris" from 1939 celebrates Nazi ideals of beauty by showing a youth wearing lederhosen sizing up three the Stalinists decorated their monumental buildings with rich ornamentation.

naked German women rather than Greek goddesses.

"The Standard-Bearer" of 1934 is a portrait of Hitler as a Medieval knight in armour.

The Nazis had grandiose plans to rebuild parts of Berlin, Munich and Linz, the Austrian city near Hitler's birthplace of Braunau. Hitler, a failed artist, took a personal interest.

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Peres urges Europe to invest in Mideast

BUCHAREST (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Thursday urged European businesses to pour capital into rebuilding the Middle East in what he foresees as a new era of peace and prosperity.

"European governments have budgets but they don't give money, whereas firms have money but don't have ideas," Mr. Peres said in a debate at an international political and economic conference which he co-chaired with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

"Therefore governments should encourage companies which invest in the Middle East and give them guarantees," he said in the debate, part of a Bucharest conference of the Swiss-based foundation, the Crans Montana Forum.

Mr. Peres said European companies should "export" redundant staff and help the Middle East with infrastruc-

ture projects including building nuclear power plants.

"I'm confident Europe is interested in the Middle East... and it will be still interested in the Middle East even in the period after (the conflict)," Mr. Arafat said.

"Not only Israel and the Palestinians will benefit from such a plan but all territories (in the Middle East) will enjoy its benefits," he said.

Mr. Arafat said, "We want to make," Mr. Peres said to the loud applause of more than 1,000 politicians, officials and business people packing the huge, glittering and sumptuous conference hall.

In his speech, Mr. Arafat repeated his appeal for a new Marshall plan for the Middle East.

International pledges of \$2.3 billion in aid for the autonomous Palestinian areas fell "considerably" short of the \$13.45 billion which he said was needed to fund develop-

ment projects until the year 2,000, Mr. Arafat said.

"It is the right of the Middle East after such a long period of war to benefit from a new Marshall plan," he said.

"Our firm belief is that over the next few years (Gulf) governments will allow greater foreign participation in their market economies. We hope to get involved in very much," said Nicholas Lumsden, Bahrain-based Gulf manager for Flemings Holdings.

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ArabGulf capital growth fund proposed

DOHA (R) — Investment house Jardine Flemings has said it was negotiating with Arab Gulf states to launch a Middle East fund to promote long-term capital growth.

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U.S., German central banks fail to trigger dollar rally

This report by Nasser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai, analyses movements and trends of key world currencies. Prices are given as of Wednesday, April 20, 1994.

Overview

Fundamental View: The dollar has failed to rally in response to either the Fed's surprise 25-basis point rate hike on April 18 or to the Bundesbank's recent rate cuts. The dollar's lackluster performance may reflect a slowdown of portfolio capital flows to the U.S. in view of uncertain prospects for U.S. equity and bond markets. The dollar should eventually rise further against the Deutsche mark as German interest rates decline by more than expected.

Japan: The new prime minister is expected to make little headway on trade liberalisation, suggesting that yen strength will continue as part of U.S. policy to boost exports and narrow Japan's huge current account surplus.

We maintain our 12-month targets of JPY/USD 95 and DM/USD 1.80.

Technical View: For the second week in a row, it was not a case of how many, but how much. Even though the U.S. dollar was able to post gains against five of the six major currencies that we most regularly monitor, the U.S. dollar index fell less than 0.1% as the greenback fell sharply versus the Japanese yen. Put/call ratios for the dollar remain oversold, but are beginning to deteriorate. At the same time short term rates of change have begun to weaken. Both of these points raise the prospects for renewed dollar weakness in coming days.

By contrast, medium term momentum is showing signs of bottoming, suggesting that the underlying February-April corrective pattern is coming to an end. Thus, any nearby weakness could well be the last leg to the correction. The inability, so far, to break 92.80 support adds to the prospects for a bottom. While resistance at 95.50-95.90 is still important in the sense that a rally through that range would allow for a test of the February high (97.10), we are lowering first resistance to 94.40. A rally through that level would imply that a bottom is in place.

Deutsche mark

Fundamental View: The dollar has failed to rally against the Deutsche mark in response to the Fed's surprise rate hike on April 18 or in response to recent moves by the Bundesbank. With foreign investors still wary of U.S. bond and equity markets, perceptions that Fed policy has stabilised may be required before capital inflows begin to lend more support to the dollar. By the same token, the Bundesbank's surprise 25-basis point cut in its Lombard rate on April 14 and its subsequent 12-basis point cut in its repo rate on April 20 may be encouraging capital inflows into Germany's more hospitable financial markets.

Japan premier-designate Hata appeals for coalition unity

TOKYO (R) — Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, set to take over as Japanese prime minister, appealed to his fractious coalition Friday to unite and form a large political group ahead of the next general election.

After narrowly averting a break-up over policy differences, coalition leaders buried the hatchet and agreed to nominate Mr. Hata, 58, as their candidate in a parliamentary vote Monday to appoint a successor to Morihiro Hosokawa.

"I've decided to accept the terrifying responsibilities that come with leading the nation," Mr. Hata told a news conference.

"I hope the coalition will be able to agree to cooperate and to create a larger (group) before the next elections."

Although formal confirmation must await Monday's vote, Mr. Hata is certain to win because of the coalition's majority in the decisive lower house.

Politicians and analysts, however, say the latest policy struggle has left the fragile alliance even shakier than before, a factor likely to destabilise the new government.

"The fact it took two weeks to agree to a vague policy plan means Hata is going to have difficulty governing," said columnist Minoru Morita.

Rei Shiratori, politics professor at Tokai University, said Mr. Hata's government would be short-lived.

"There's going to be more friction along the lines we saw these past two weeks... and I don't think the Hata cabinet will last very long."

Mr. Hosokawa's sudden resignation on April 8 triggered a power struggle and two weeks of policy wrangling between the coalition's mainstream conservatives and the leftist Socialists.

At first the Socialists balked at raising a tax they had fought unsuccessfully to kill in 1989. Then they relented and demanded the coalition agree first to seek a "national understanding" — something the conservatives finally accepted.

On North Korea, the Socialists insisted the policy document name China, along with the United States and South Korea, as a country Japan must consult in the event of a worsening crisis on Pyongyang's suspected nuclear arms programme.

In the final communiqué, the feuding camps agreed merely that Japan would consult "other Asian countries".

Mr. Ozawa shrugged off the

coalition's painful process of consensus-building.

"We're working towards creating a good political system," he said on television. "We're just in the process now."

In proposing a new group to field joint candidates in future elections, Mr. Hata aims at creating a large conservative party to compete with the once-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), still the biggest in parliament.

Elections could be called later this year or in 1995 after a special panel completes work on a new electoral map promised in Mr. Hosokawa's political reform package passed in June.

While coalition conservatives welcomed Mr. Hata's call for greater unity, the Socialist-led camp was wary.

"We need more time to decide," Keigo Ouchi, Democratic Socialist Party leader, said.

Meanwhile, the yet-to-be-formed Hata government had advance warning Friday of squalls ahead when the LDP served notice it planned to call Mr. Hosokawa to parliament to testify on the loans scandal that forced his resignation.

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Perry gives cool welcome to N. Korean nuclear offer

TOKYO (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry gave a guarded welcome Friday to a North Korean offer to let United Nations experts look at key evidence in a row over its alleged secret atomic bomb project.

North Korea invited the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Thursday to send experts to watch while spent fuel rods at its main nuclear reactor in Yongbyon are unloaded and replaced.

The United States and its allies believe North Korea is planning to build, or has already made, nuclear bombs.

Earlier this week, North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung repeated his secretive country's strong denials that it had any nuclear weapons ambitions.

Mr. Perry said Friday, however, that without outside surveillance, the North Koreans could extract enough plutonium from the fuel to make four or five nuclear bombs.

"We welcome these talks between IAEA and North Korea," Mr. Perry told a news conference in Tokyo, where he held talks with Japanese officials on regional security.

He added, though, that the IAEA would need to establish to what extent it would have

access to sensitive parts of the Yongbyon site, north of the capital Pyongyang.

The IAEA has agreed to the meeting but has stated very clearly that for them to be willing to go to Yongbyon again they need to have a clear understanding of what it is they will be allowed to do when they get there," he said.

The IAEA has already been foiled once this year.

"We call on North Korea to allow the IAEA to not only be present at the unloading but to finish the inspections that they agreed to during the Feb. 15 agreement," said Mr. Perry.

"It is very clear that the IAEA needs more than just a physical presence at Yongbyon at the time of the removal," Mr. Perry also said that, if the latest inspection hopes were dashed, the United States might independently organise sanctions on North Korea if it could not persuade the U.N. Security Council to do so.

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Police investigating a bomb attack on an office of the Independence Electoral Commission in the white farming town of Hoopstad in the Orange Free State said the type of explosives used pointed to the white right.

A spokesman said they were closing in on those responsible for the Thursday morning attack, the first of its kind. "The right wing are mostly the people who make use of commercial explosives. We have a good idea who the culprits are," a police spokesman said, adding arrests looked imminent.

A leading security analyst, meanwhile, predicted the government, which has the power to detain suspects without trial for up to 10 days, would crack down on the white right.

"We could be looking at a security clampdown any day now," Jakkie Cilliers, director of the independent Institute for Defence Policy, told Reuters.

Reuters: "It would be extremely stupid of the government or the TEC (Transitional Executive Council) not to do something against radicals threatening the elections."

Conservative Party leader and head of the right-wing Afrikaner People's Front (AVF) Ferdi Hartzenberg Thursday rejected suggestions that he should throw in his lot with General Constand Viljoen's Freedom Front, which is contesting the poll to pursue its 50 per cent share to Russia.

The meeting was to have been headed by Mr. Lee Yung-Dug and included the foreign and defence ministers. Mr. Lee Hoi-Chang was not to have attended the meeting.

Local press reports said the outgoing prime minister was unhappy because several important policies had been announced before receiving his approval.

S. Korea replaces premier

SEOUL (R) — Lee Hoi-Chang resigned as South Korean prime minister Friday and was replaced by his deputy Lee Yung-Dug, a presidential spokesman said.

The shock resignation revealed an unexpected rift in the leadership of South Korea's civilian government, currently under pressure from the row with Communist North Korea over Pyongyang's alleged development of nuclear arms.

Lee Hoi-Chang tendered his resignation to President Kim Young-Sam by letter Friday and it was accepted, the spokesman said.

The outgoing Mr. Lee, who took office last December, caused a political stir Thursday when he said he wanted to increase his control over state affairs.

News reports said Mr. Lee has been at odds with some of

his cabinet members over national policies. Analysts said Mr. Lee had been unhappy that he had been ignored when policies were being formulated.

Mr. Lee's unexpected resignation came hours after a weekly meeting of top security officials on the North Korean nuclear problem was cancelled, following his instruction that the agenda of such meetings should first be approved by him.

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Hundreds queue on Red Square to remember Lenin

MOSCOW (AP) — Hundreds of pensioners with Soviet flags and red carnations lined up on Red Square to pay their respects to Vladimir Lenin Friday, the 124th anniversary of the Soviet founder's birth.

Russian newspapers published several stories about Lenin and the meaning of the day in post-Soviet Russia. During the Communist era, it was among the most important dates in the Soviet Union.

On a bright, crisp day, crowds began forming early Friday to file through Lenin's chilly marble mausoleum to view his body preserved under glass. Many brought flowers, flags and portraits of Lenin.

President Boris Yeltsin, who has overseen the dismantling of the state system Lenin built, had no special plans to mark the day.

"It's not within the range of his interests," spokesman Dmitry Orlyonov said.

The newspaper Rabochaya Tribuna decried the current official indifference towards the date and the hostility towards Lenin. The government has removed the Honour Guard who stood outside the mausoleum and the mayor has suggested evicting Lenin for burial in St. Petersburg, the former imperial capital that once bore his name: Leningrad.

"Is this fair? Have those who have embarked upon the road of downright blemishing their own history made a mistake?" the newspaper asked. "All these questions will have to be answered yet."

The former Communist organ Pravda printed front-page picture of Lenin and urged Russians to remember his contributions.

"Lenin must be defended," Pravda said. "Defending Lenin does not mean attacking his abusers, it means to reveal the

White right makes veiled threat to S. African voters

JOHANNESBURG (R) —

South Africa's hardline white right, spurning 11th-hour overtures to join next week's historic elections, has told voters it could be dangerous to vote in the poll to end over three centuries of white power.

Kobus Beyers, a member of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, warned there would be attempts to sabotage the April 26 all-race elections in some parts of the country when the polls open Tuesday, state radio reported Friday.

Mr. Beyers, speaking in the Afrikaners' Orange Free State heartland, said "soft targets" would be avoided, but gave no details of plans to disrupt the poll which the African National Congress (ANC) is widely expected to win.

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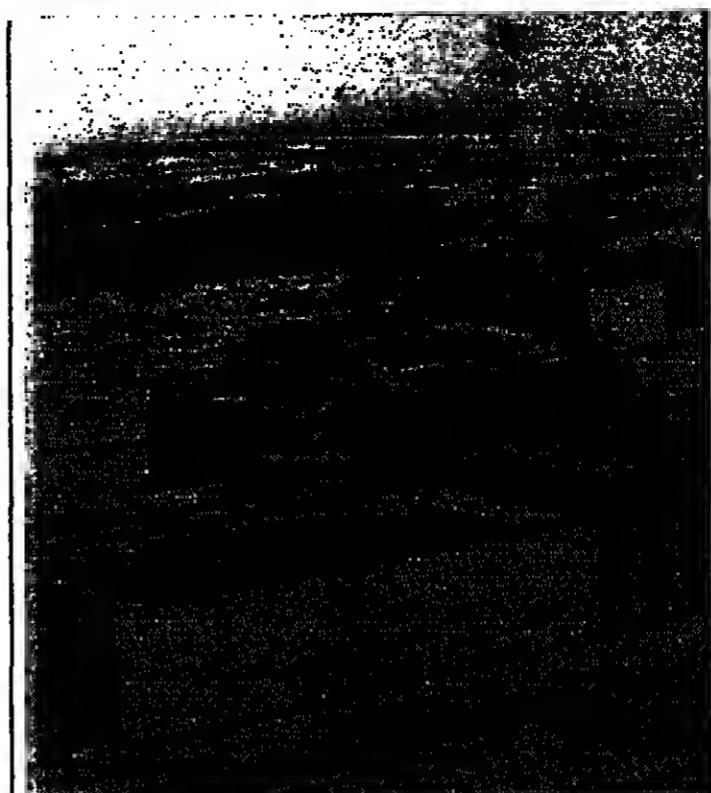
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File picture dated March 1992 shows an aerial view of the Chernobyl nuclear plant where the greatest civilian nuclear catastrophe took place on April 26, 1986. The Ukrainian government refuses even a temporary closure of the plant despite two recent incidents and the pressure of international nuclear experts (AFP photo)

Chernobyl to stay open, Ukraine tells IAEA

VIENNA (R) — Ukraine is refusing to close down its incident-prone Chernobyl nuclear plant, scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986, a spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Friday.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Knight picks up poisoned chalice

LONDON (AFP) — Billy Knight was named here Friday as Britain's Davis Cup captain. He succeeds Tony Pickard in what may be Britain's sport's most thankless task. Pickard left last month following a war of words with director of national coaching Richard Lewis. Knight, 58, will also resume his crucial position as manager of men's training. The double appointment effectively makes him the new supremo of British men's tennis. A former British No. 1 who played in 40 Davis Cup matches spanning 11 years, Knight said: "I am happy to rejoin the national training department to try to complete the job I started three years ago. I will certainly give that, and the increased responsibility of the captaincy of the Davis Cup team, my very best efforts."

Pele announces wedding plans

NEW YORK (R) — Brazilian soccer legend Pele revealed Thursday that he plans to get married at the end of the month. The 53-year-old Pele, who was appearing on a syndicated home shopping television show hosted by comedian Joan Rivers, announced that he will marry 33-year-old Assira Nascimento. He said he had known Nascimento for more than 10 years. Pele, who retired from soccer in 1977 after a star-studded 21-year career which included 1,285 goals and two World Cup championships, said the wedding will take place in Brazil. He did not announce the exact date or site of the nuptials. He did reveal, however, that the ceremony will result in the loss of a bet he made with actor Sylvester Stallone on the set of the film *Victory* in which they starred. Pele said he bet Stallone that he would never remarry.

World Cup charm for Germany

NAIROBI (AFP) — An African witch doctor is offering to put a spell on Germany's opponents during the World Cup finals. Shariff Omar Abubaker, consultant sorcerer to several Kenyan soccer clubs, has warned German coach Bert Vogts that the omens for the World Cup holders this time are not good. But Abubaker makes it clear in a letter to Vogts that the German fortunes would improve dramatically if they availed themselves of his services. "I am ready to help by bewitching your adversaries," he wrote. Vogts has yet to respond and the reactions of Germany's World Cup group C opponents — Bolivia, Spain and South Korea — are awaited with interest. There is no evidence of Germany having resorted to sorcery in their previous World Cup triumphs of 1954, 1974 and 1990.

League drops handshake ban

LOS ANGELES (R) — Officials of a southern California schools sports league have dropped a ban on handshakes between opposing teams after being accused of poor sportsmanship. The ban on after-game handshakes, imposed last month, was reported worldwide and inspired angry calls from as far away as Britain and Australia. "This has caused more furor than anything that should be causing furor," said Agoura High School Principal Jim Christensen, who is president of the eight-school Marmonte League in Ventura County, about 30 miles (48km) west of Los Angeles. The ban was imposed because some students with bad feelings after games were shaking their fists instead of their hands and a number of scuffles broke out. But on Tuesday the eight principals engaged in a telephone conference call and voted to return to the traditional symbol of good sportsmanship.

UEFA turn down Juventus appeal

GENEVA (R) — UEFA Wednesday turned down an appeal by Juventus against a four-match ban imposed on German defender Jürgen Kohler. Kohler was suspended for four European-club matches after being sent off while playing for his club against fellow Italians Cagliari in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals in Turin last month. Kohler pushed an opponent during a flare-up between both sides and received a red card. Cagliari won the match 2-1 to knock out Juventus 3-1 on aggregate. UEFA also turned down an appeal by Austrian club Casino Salzburg against fines totalling 55,000 Swiss francs (\$38,000) for misconduct by their team and poor organisation during the UEFA Cup match with Eintracht Frankfurt of Germany in March. Otto Baric, the Croatian trainer of Salzburg who have since gone on to reach the UEFA Cup final, was earlier banned from the touchline for five matches for spitting at an opposing player during the same match.



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH
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AVOID THE PROBLEM

North-South vulnerable. Scrub deals.

NORTH
♦ A J 10 6
7 A 10 4 2
7 5 3
4 6 2

WEST
♦ 9 4
3 Q J 9 6
7 K 7 5
4 E 10 8 6
4 Q 9 7 4
* K 10 8 5 3

SOUTH
♦ K Q 8 7 5 2
7 6 3
4 A Q 4
* A J

The bidding:
South: West: North: East

Pass: 3 ♦ Pass: Pass

4 ♦ Pass: Pass: Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

Even something as simple as a

spade is approached by the expert

and the average player from diamet-

opposite points of view. Most

players consider the gain if the

spades win. The chosen few think

about the cost if the spades lose.

Nothing is simple to these

spades was a limit bid showing 10-

12 points. South had no aspirations

beyond game, but even that seem-

ingly easy contract was in jeopardy

without careful play.

West led the queen of hearts and

it is obvious the spade game is safe if

the diamond spades were to win —

declarer can lose at most one trick in each side suit. However, the pessi-

mis realizes that, were the finesse to lose, the contract would inevita-

bly be defeated. It's time to look for

an alternative line to land the

contract.

That hinges on keeping East off

lead, so the first move is to duck the

heart lead in dummy. East cannot

rise with the king without setting up

a finesse position in hearts which is

sure to succeed, so that defender

also must play low. West can do no

better at trick two than continues

with the nine of hearts, taken by the

ace.

The next step is to eliminate

clubs as an entry for the defender

in the process keeping East off lead,

so declarer leads a club from dummy

and when East follows low inserts

the jack. Best defense is for West to

win and return a club.

After taking the ace of clubs, de-

clarer crosses to dummy with a

ruff and ruffs a heart, fetching the

king. Another ruff to the table

leads the rest of the hand. Now declarer

leads the rest of hearts and, when

West does not lead, declarer leads a

diamond from hand, trapping West in

an endplay. West must either lead a

diamond into declarer's major ten-

ace or a club, yielding a ruff-shuff.

Either way the swap of a second

heart loser for none in diamonds

delivers the contract.

Miller wins women's all-around title at World Gymnastics Championship

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)

— Shannon Miller produced two spectacular vaults Friday night to win the women's all-around title at the World Gymnastics Championship for the second straight year.

Miller needed to score 9.775 with her two vaults to win — and scored 9.812.

The elite 17-year-old high school student from Edmond, Okla., received 39.274 points for the four disciplines to retain the title she won last year in Birmingham, England.

Lavinia Milosovici of Romania, who was neck-and-neck with Miller throughout the competition, won the silver

medal with 39.236 points — just 0.038 behind.

Dina Kocherikova of Russia took the bronze medal with a score of 9.250.

Miller scored 9.850 on the uneven bars, 9.862 on the balance beam and 9.750 for her floor exercise.

The last person to win back-to-back women's all-around world titles was Ludmilla Tourischeva of the Soviet Union in 1970 and 1974, when the championships were held every four years.

Gina Gogean their routines Friday afternoon, but eventually finished fourth at 39.061.

Miller's teammate, Dominique

Dawes, was fifth with 38.968 points. She was the joint leader after three routines but stumbled on the first of her two vaults, which

scored only 9.250. She improved with her second vault for an average of 9.506, but lost her chance.

Dawes, a 17-year-old from Silver Spring, Md., was in tears after her vaults and was comforted by coach Kelli Hill.

The American led at last year's world championship in Birmingham, England, before miscalculating a vault and finishing fourth.

"I felt OK on all the events except vault," Dawes said. "I

just pulled it too hard."

Coach Hill said the vault had been Dawes' weakness going into the event.

"Dominique has struggled with this vault all week. It's like *deja vu* from last year," Hill said.

"Almost 300 competitors from 53 countries are participating in the six-day championship, which continues through Sunday.

Individual apparatus finals are slated for Saturday and Sunday, with Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus, winner of six medals at the Barcelona Olympics, contesting four men's finals.

Miami clinches last playoff spot in east

MIAMI (R)

— The Miami Heat clinched the final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference and shrank the already narrow advantage of the conference-leading Hawks in the process with a 94-89 win over Atlanta in NBA action.

Glen Rice had 21 points, including two pressure free throws in the final seconds to seal the win, and Steve Smith added 16 for the Heat, who held off a late Hawks' charge.

Danny Manning had 21 points to top the scoring for Atlanta, (56-25), who had their lead for the best mark in the east — and home court advantage in the playoffs — cut to half a game over both the New York Knicks and Chicago Bulls (both 55-25).

The last set took an hour and ended when the 23-year-old American hit a free throw out.

Medvedev, who had knee earlier in the year, showed tremendous spirit to slog it out with Courier who last Sunday lost the Nice Open final to Spain's Sergi Berasategui.

The Ukrainian now plays Russia's Yevgeni Kafelnikov who had a straight sets win over David Rick of the Czech Republic.

Kafelnikov, who eliminated Michael Stich and Andre Agassi on his way to the quarter-finals, won 7-6, 6-3.

Grayson scored 19 points to lead six players in double figures as the Warriors beat the Sacramento Kings 121-96 to remain alive in the battle for the fifth playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Jud Buechler added a season-high 18 for the Warriors, who need to win their last two games while the Utah Jazz lose their last two to capture the fifth playoff spot.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had 21 points and 14 rebounds and Robert Horry scored 20 to pace the Rockets to a 126-100 romp over the Dallas Mavericks.

The Rockets improved to 58-22 and secured the second-best record in the league.

In Boston, Alonzo Mourning had 21 points and 11 rebounds as the Charlotte Hornets beat the Celtics 95-89 but Charlotte's quest for a playoff berth ended with Miami's win.

The win was the Hornets' eighth in the last nine games, but their late-season surge was not enough to catch the Heat in the race for the eighth playoff spot.

Muggsy Bogues had 13 points and six assists for the Hornets, and Larry Johnson added 11 points and 13 rebounds.

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- Experiencia mínima de 3 años en puestos similares
- Dominio de los idiomas español y árabe
- Amplios conocimientos de informática
- Amplios conocimientos de contabilidad y de gestión económica

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali reviews tourism services

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Friday joined citizens and tourists in a trip by train around Amman and Al Mousatta Palace. The trip, which ended at the airport, was organised by Royal Jordanian (RJ). Dr. Majali inspected RJ services at the airport and met with cabin crews. Dr. Majali called for upgrading the standards of services, noting that the success of tourism does not only depend on tourist attractions but also on providing services.

Former Parliament member passes away

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Al Masri on Friday announced the death of former House member Mohammad Al Mazyah. The late former deputy, 83, served in several military posts, including that of the director of the Public Security Department (PSD).

Energy delegation heads for Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources headed by Secretary-General Abdul Wahab Al Zoubi left for Pakistan on Friday for a one-week visit. The delegation will gain firsthand information on Pakistan's experience in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, particularly in such areas as medicine, agriculture, water and industry.

Egypt tries to spot Algerian militants

SALLOUM, Egypt (AFP) — Security forces have taken measures to block Algerian militants from trying to slip into Egypt in the guise of pilgrims on their way to Mecca, officials said Friday. Security forces will escort pilgrims and hold their passports when they enter Egypt from Libya at Salloum until they leave the country at Nuweiba in the Sinai, officials said. "These measures are aimed at preventing Algerian militants infiltrating into Egypt," a security official at the Libyan-Egyptian border said. The security services had obtained information about attempts at cooperation between Egyptian and Algerian extremists. "The Algerian militants could take advantage of the pilgrimage season to infiltrate into Egypt and renew contacts with Egyptian activists," he said. Some 30,000 pilgrims from Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania are to start travelling to Saudi Arabia via the Egyptian border post at Salloum. The pilgrimage is planned for the end of May. Only Libyan pilgrims will be exempted from the measures. The governments of Egypt and Algeria are both locked in a bloody confrontation with militants bent on their overthrow.

Pakistani beheaded in Jeddah

RIYADH (AP) — A Pakistani was beheaded Friday in Jeddah after a court convicted him of smuggling heroin into the kingdom, the Interior Ministry announced. The announcement identified the man as Mohammad Ashar Wahid Baksh. It did not provide details on the arrest. Saudi Arabia rules by Islamic law, which prescribes beheadings for convicted murderers. Saudi theologians extended the punishment in 1987 to serious drug crimes. Most of an estimated 70 people beheaded in 1993 were convicted on drug charges. So far this year, five people have been executed on drug charges; the others were another Pakistani, two Nigerians and an Indian. The announcement on the beheadings always warn dealers they will face the same fate, stressing that the kingdom is determined to combat drugs.

German 'Uncle Scrooge' arrested

BERLIN (AFP) — A German blackmail artist who went by the name "Uncle Scrooge" as he evaded and ridiculed police for two years was arrested here Friday, authorities announced. The 44-year-old man was arrested as he made a phone call trying to set up a meeting place with his victim for payment of a ransom. Police did not immediately give his name. "Uncle Scrooge," as he called himself, since June 1992 had been threatening the German food chain Karstadt to place bombs in its facilities unless he was paid a ransom of 1.4 million marks (\$820,000). To prove he was serious, he set fire to three branches of the chain in the last two years and on each occasion managed to evade arrest, often under incredible circumstances that ridiculed police. On one occasion last January, he asked that the ransom be placed in a homemade train wagon placed on the rails of an abandoned station in Berlin. Once police placed the bag full of money inside the wagon, it was activated by remote control but stalled and went off track after travelling a short distance. On another occasion in October 1992, he narrowly escaped arrest when a police officer chasing him slipped on some dog turd.

Nigerian rulers to allow politics from January

ABUJA (R) — Nigeria's five-month-old military government announced on Friday it would lift the ban on politics from Jan. 17, 1995. An official statement in the inland capital Abuja said the second phase of the government's political programme would also be announced on that date. The statement said elections would be held on May 28 to vote for delegates to the government's planned constitutional conference meant to decide what political system Nigerians want. The statement gave a detailed programme of events between now and the end of the year when the constitutional conference is scheduled to wind up and said that would be the first phase of its political programme. "The second phase of the political programme is expected to be unfolded on Tuesday 17 January, 1995 with the lifting of the ban on political activities," it said.

British caught with drug thought it was gold

BANGKOK (AFP) — A British woman arrested at Bangkok airport with seven kilograms of heroin in her luggage said Friday she thought she was smuggling gold. A tearful Patricia Karen Hussein, 30, from Manchester, told reporters at a news conference called by police that her boyfriend of six months — whom she declined to identify — on Tuesday gave her a suitcase and an air ticket for the United States. She said she was to be paid \$2,000 on arrival in America. Ms. Hussein said she did not suspect anything even though her boyfriend, who was to have followed her to Singapore later, disappeared the next day. "I didn't think anything about it," she said. "I thought it was gold and jewellery. I thought it was gold because it was heavy." But Thai police became suspicious when she tried to board a flight Thursday at Bangkok's international airport because of what they said was her strange travel pattern. Ms. Hussein's ticket would have taken her to Singapore, back to Bangkok, on to Zurich and then to America. Her luggage also was unusually heavy, police said. Officers searched Ms. Hussein's bag and found the heroin in the false bottom and along one side of her green, nylon carry-on bag. Ms. Hussein, who said she is married but separated and has two children in Manchester, is charged with possession, smuggling and trafficking in heroin. She is to appear in Bangkok criminal court on April 26.

Teenager's mother delivers petitions in Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — The mother of American teenager Michael Fay delivered clemency petitions bearing thousands of signatures to the palace of Singapore President Ong Teng Cheong on Friday. The five bound volumes, requesting that the 18-year-old be spared from six strokes of the rattan cane for spray-painting cars last year, contained more than 6,000 signatures, the mother, Randy Chan, said. The signatures were gathered from Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States and Britain, one of Fay's defence attorneys said. "This is obviously the last thing we can do to hopefully save Michael from the caning," Ms. Chan told Reuters. Fay's appeal was earlier rejected by a Singapore court, and only a pardon by Ms. Ong can save the youth from the cane strokes, which leave permanent scars.

100 injured in Amman soccer violence

By Munem Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than 100 people were injured on Friday in clashes and stone-throwing incidents during and after the last match of the 1993 soccer league first division championship between Al Faisali and Al Wihdat at Amman's international stadium.

The incidents started in the 75th minute of the match when Al Wihdat's international striker Hisham Abdul Munem was tackled by Al Faisali defender Rateb Al Awadat.

Abdul Munem went after Awadat to the field and clashes erupted among players and fans, who started throwing stones and other heavy objects towards each other. Policemen moved in to end the rioting.

Damaged in the riots were several facilities at the Al Hussein Youth City Club and the two teams' buses.

No exact figure on the number of those injured was available. Official sources estimated the number to be more than 100, including eight policemen and several players. Other sources put the number of injured at 250.

Al Faisali was leading 2-0 when the rioting halted the match.

Police used tear-gas to disperse rioters damaging Al Hussein Youth City facilities and, according to the sources, several people were arrested for questioning.

The sources said police chief



A scene from Friday's violence at Amman International Stadium (Photo by Abdallah Ayyoub)

(Continued on page 5)

Rebel reinforcements advance towards Kigali

U.N. forces begin major withdrawal

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Rebel reinforcements advanced towards the besieged Rwandan capital on Friday and a threadbare U.N. mission hoped for a truce to end the country's slaughter.

Sporadic fighting between rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) and government units continued in the morning, the commander of a scaled-down United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), Brigadier-General Romeo Dallaire, told Reuters.

"There is lots of sporadic firing going on around Kigali. It looks like the government and RPF are fighting it out," Gen. Dallaire said in a phone interview. Geo. Dallaire, a Canadian, said a column of fresh rebel forces had pierced through the capture town of Rwanagana, about 40 kilometres to the east and was now advancing on Kigali.

"We are outraged at this short-sighted, callous decision," he said in a statement here.

"U.N. troops on the ground in Kigali are doing their best, to protect lives... if the Security Council make them pull out, then many thousands of civilians will almost certainly lose what little security they have."

The decision to withdraw most U.N. forces followed two weeks of carnage during which 10 Belgian peacekeepers were killed by government forces.

Only a token force of 300 soldiers was to remain, shutting between Rwanda's rebels and government forces to try and broker a ceasefire, U.N. spokesman Abdul Khabib said by telephone from Kigali.

Mr. Khabib said he had been told by a senior U.N. military official in Kigali that "as many as 5,000 refugees currently in

from the government side. The rebels have agreed to attend the talks to be chaired by Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi but they insist they will only talk to the Rwandan army and not members of an interim government which fled Kigali last week.

Some 1,000 United Nations peacekeepers Friday prepared to fly out of Rwanda in the wake of the ethnic bloodbath that an international aid group warned would worsen after the U.N. withdrawal.

A U.N. spokesman said the rapid evacuation, ordered by the Security Council in New York on Thursday, was being carried out Friday and Saturday as the ethnic atrocities continued.

David Breyer, director of the London-based aid group Oxfam, said the U.N. pullout would amount to a death sentence for thousands of Rwandans.

"We are outraged at this short-sighted, callous decision," he said in a statement here.

"U.N. troops on the ground in Kigali are doing their best, to protect lives... if the Security Council make them pull out, then many thousands of civilians will almost certainly lose what little security they have."

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Mr. Khabib said he had been told by a senior U.N. military official in Kigali that "as many as 5,000 refugees currently in

Kigali stadium, which is just one of the U.N.-protected sites, have threatened to commit suicide if the U.N. pulls out.

"They said rather die at their own hands than be brutally killed," he said.

Mr. Khabib said small arms fire was continuing in Kigali on Friday but that the Rwandan capital was quieter than earlier this week when heavy artillery battles raged.

The cut in the U.N. force, which initially numbered 2,500 before Belgium withdrew its 400-man contingent this week, stemmed from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's proposal that it be either massively reinforced to restore order, or substantially reduced.

The 1,700 troops still in Kigali and from 22 nations, with the main contingents provided by Bangladesh and Ghana.

The U.N. chief rejected a third option of a total withdrawal.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Friday that 16,870 people had been killed in nine villages around Cyangugu, in southwestern Rwanda, during two weeks of inter-ethnic fighting.

"The massacres were indescribable. Most killed were men and children," a UNHCR spokesman told Reuters.

UNHCR also said that 90,000 people had fled Rwanda for four neighbouring countries, nearly doubling the number in just two days.

The agency said the new figure included 50,000 Burundians who have returned to their homeland since the presidents of the two countries were killed when their plane was shot down on April 6. In addition, 12,000 Rwandans have crossed over into Burundi.

Abdullah Hammondeh, a member of the AOHR general

Feuds abort AOHR annual conference

By Natasha Bokhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) Jordan branch Friday expressed disappointment at what they called the failure of members of some political parties to rise above political interests at the expense of Jordan's national interests.

Some politically oriented persons acted irresponsibly, said Suleiman Sweiss, member of the AOHR's administrative committee, commenting on the committee's failure to maintain quorum for its annual meeting, which was scheduled for Friday.

Mr. Sweiss told the Jordan Times on Friday that a member of the AOHR "got upset" after arriving at the meeting place and started urging other members to leave so the quorum would not be reached.

"Seeing a number of people leaving the room, several other members followed suit," and the meeting could not be convened, Dr. Sweiss said.

The meeting was supposed to discuss the organisation's future policy, hold elections for the AOHR's administrative committee and assess the organisation's performance, which Dr. Sweiss said was unsatisfactory. He accused certain political parties involved in the organisation of using the AOHR as a forum for political work rather than a human rights institution.

Dr. Sweiss said that the meeting was deliberately sabotaged by some AOHR members because they represented what they saw as a "conspiracy" between Baathist and National Action Front (NAF) members of the organisation to monopolise the AOHR's administrative committee.

"They have no right to turn this humanitarian institution into a political circus," he said. Dr. Sweiss said he regretted that Friday's meeting could not take place.

Dr. Sweiss appealed to all members of the AOHR to devote their work within the organisation to securing citizen's human rights.

assembly, told the Jordan Times that 30 members stayed away from the meeting in an expression of their dissatisfaction with the organisation's performance.

According to Mr. Hammondeh, candidates recommended for the AOHR's administration would be "more fit to work for charity institutions rather than a national human rights organisation."

The proposed candidates, according to Mr. Hammondeh, were people who "could offer nothing to the organisation in terms of promoting human rights in the country."

He said that the AOHR's outgoing administrative committee was not democratic and asserted that the panel should not be representative of a human rights organisation whose most important challenge is to ensure the implementation of democracy in the country.

The proposed candidates, according to Mr. Hammondeh, were people who "could offer nothing to the organisation in terms of promoting human rights in the country."

Members of the organisation have bad differences concerning the priorities of the organisation. According to activists, some see it as a means to achieve political ends, while others seek to free the AOHR from political activities.

"There is a determined body within the AOHR that believes in the organisation's right to independence, and insists on steering away from the influence of political parties," Dr. Sweiss said, noting that parties have the right to promote human rights within their own activities.

"They have no right to turn this humanitarian institution into a political circus," he said.

Dr. Sweiss said he regretted that Friday's meeting could not take place.

Dr. Sweiss appealed to all members of the AOHR to devote their work within the organisation to securing citizen's human rights.

COLUMN 8

Balladur pledges 100m francs to fight AIDS

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur has pledged his government would donate 100 million francs (\$17 million) to research into AIDS after a programme on seven television channels raised the same sum this month. More than 33 million people watched the unprecedented joint programme All Against AIDS shown on April 7 to fight the spread of the disease and public ignorance and prejudice. "The AIDS evening raised 100 million and I have decided that we will double that amount — the government will add 100 million," Mr. Balladur said in a television interview on the private TF1 channel. The funds raised by the programme were destined mainly for research into the disease. France has the highest number of AIDS cases in Europe. The disease kills 15,000 people a year in France. There have been 32,000 cases since the epidemic began in 1981 and an estimated 150,000 people are thought to be infected with the HIV virus which causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Princess Anne to be 1st royal in TV advert

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth's daughter Princess Anne is to become the first member of Britain's royal family to star in a television advertisement — for a charity. The princess will appear next week in the advertisement to promote Save the Children Fund's largest ever fund-raising appeal marking its 75th anniversary, the charity said. The charity, of which the princess is president, was founded by a British woman appalled by the suffering of children in Austria after World War I. It now operates in more than 50 countries.

Editor jailed for column he wrote

NEW DELHI (AP) — A State legislature has ordered police to arrest and jail a newspaper editor for a column he wrote in 1992 saying that several lawmakers had received help from thugs. The Maharashtra state assembly unanimously passed the breach of privilege motion against Nikhil Wagle, and no court ruling is needed to carry out the order to jail him for four days. Mr. Wagle, editor and publisher of Aapla Mahanagar newspaper, wrote a column saying several legislators had been helped by thugs during elections that won them seats and that they are hypocrites. The legislative motion, which Dr. Wagle to be jailed as "a political prisoner," said such columns tarnish the image of elected officials in the western state of Maharashtra.

Clinton's talk about the challenges of parenthood

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fourteen-year-old Chelsea Clinton has inherited her mom's "social conscience" and her dad's talent for math, the first parents say. In turn, mom and dad have learned a few things from their daughter. In an interview with Parents magazine, President Bill Clinton said Chelsea is a better person and a better president "for having been a father. Parenthood ties you to the rest of life in a way and makes you less self-absorbed," he said. Hillary Rodham Clinton added that "our willingness to just learn from Chelsea and respect who she is, the person she was meant to be, has helped us a lot."

"They are telling the PLO we will not sit at the negotiating table with Israel. But we will have a share in the cake of peace," Dr. Wagle said referring to the possibility of a "peace treaty" although he did not say between whom.

According to Hamas leaders in the occupied territories, the strategy as outlined in Friday's statement helps Hamas secure a role in the present political process. Without such a strategy, they said, Hamas would be left alone unable to influence the course of political developments.

Sheikh Bahar said the political leadership of the group outside the occupied territories has also taken a decision to participate in elections to the self-rule institutions envisaged under the Israel-PLO accord.

— If it drew closer to the PLO's political position and participated in self-rule institutions, it would facilitate implementation of the PLO-Israel accord but without granting it legitimacy, and it would isolate the opposition inside the PLO against participation in the Palestinian authority. — If he started talking to all the doctors and nurses. And so it was just this kind of group experience... we would have loved to have more children."

Hamas 'clarifies' that no